

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Q1 Figs. 3A and 3B illustrates the motion estimation process. In Fig. 3B, a current frame (picture) is shown, while Fig. 3A shows a reference frame. It is desired to characterize the content of the current picture as being the same as the content of the reference picture, but with a changing portion of the current picture, designated the "block" in the reference picture, together with a motion vector (u, v). The location of the block is usually given by the coordinates of its upper left corner, together with some information about its size.

Please replace the line beginning on page 5, line 5 with the following amended line:

Q2 Figs. 3A and 3B illustrates a conventional motion estimation process; and

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 30 with the following amended paragraph:

Q3 Figs. 1 and 2 show an illustrative example of an embodiment of the invention. The flow chart 100 shows the processing steps in accordance with the invention for searching a current frame 200 of a video image (video signal, and so on). At step 102, a reference block (e.g., 302, Fig. 3A) of a reference frame is loaded into the DSP. The reference block is typically going to be an earlier frame of video, but this is not necessarily so. There are two basic motion prediction methods in video compression. The P frame method uses a previous frame as the reference frame. Most of the time this is going to be the last frame. However, it can be an earlier frame if an error happened in the last frame.

Motion vectors (e.g., 304, Fig. 3B) relative to the reference block 302 are computed for candidate blocks 306 in the current frame. These candidate blocks are selected in accordance with a search window comprising a pattern of search points (e.g., 230, Fig. 2) which correlate to coordinates in the current frame.